

REMARKS

Claims 1-53, 55-90, and 92-110 are now pending in the application. Claims 54 and 91 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dankberg, U.S. Pat. No. 5,596,439, in view of Patel, U.S. Pat. No. 5,175,764. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dankberg, either singly or in combination with Patel, fails to show, teach, or suggest an electrical circuit in a communications channel including a third input which receives a baseline correction current and a second sub-circuit for controlling the baseline correction current, so that the magnitude of the composite signal does not exceed a predetermined value of an operating parameter of the electrical circuit.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, it is clear that the Examiner has given little or no consideration of the limitation of an electrical circuit in a communications channel

including sub-circuit for controlling the baseline correction current, and failed to give the limitation any weight.

The Examiner acknowledges that Dankberg does not teach “a second sub circuit for controlling a common-mode shift current, so that the magnitude of the composite signal does not exceed a predetermined value of an operating parameter of the electrical circuit.” (Page 2 of the Office Action). The Examiner alleges that Column 2, Lines 44-52 and Column 5, Lines 12-20 of Patel teach this structure. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Patel fail to disclose a sub-circuit for controlling a baseline correction current as recited in Applicants’ claims. For example, Column 2, Lines 44-52 state:

A common-mode sensing circuit is connected to the tip and the ring leads and to the tip drive and the ring drive amplifier circuits. The common-mode sensing circuit is arranged to sense the voltage dropped across the subscriber loop and to output a control voltage to the tip drive and ring drive amplifier circuits, for controlling the tip feed current and the ring feed current produced by the tip drive ring drive amplifier circuits, respectively.

Applicants respectfully note that the cited portions of Patel are directed to a common-mode sensing circuit for controlling tip feed current and ring feed current produced by the tip drive ring drive amplifier circuits.

In contrast, an exemplary embodiment of Applicants’ invention shown in FIG. 11 and described in Paragraphs [0058] and [0059] illustrate a circuit that receives a baseline correction current I_{bl} . For example, a baseline correction module 4 as illustrated in FIG. 4 controls the baseline correction current. In other words, Applicants’ claims require a second sub-circuit for controlling the baseline correction current. Patel discloses a common-mode sensing circuit for controlling tip feed current and

ring feed current and fails to disclose a circuit for controlling baseline correction current.

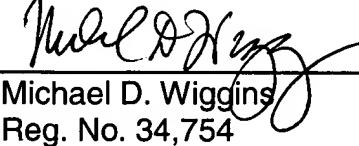
Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. The remaining claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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